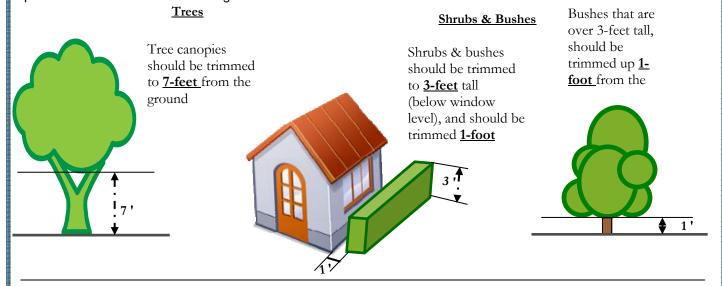
## Fairfield Police Department



## Security Tips for Landscaping and Lighting

Any trees that are overgrown should have their canopies trimmed up to 7-feet from the ground to allow for surveillance opportunities. Any overgrown bushes or shrubs that can be removed should be removed. At a minimum, overgrown bushes should be trimmed 1-foot from any building structure walls and should be trimmed to a height of 3-feet. If trimming a bush to a 3-foot height is not possible or would potentially kill the bush, the bush should be trimmed up 1-foot from the ground.



It is a well-known fact that satisfactory lighting is a very valuable deterrent to crime. Although most any lighting might help reduce your risk of becoming a victim; the right lights, utilized properly will be an extremely effective deterrent to burglars and other intruders and improve your home security.

#### **Outdoor Lighting**

Outside lights are critically important, especially near doorways and at the rear of your residence, where break-ins typically occur. All round security lighting that is set-up high out of reach, and is tamper proof, will greatly improve your home security and help to protect your home. Lighting in carports and garages is also critical. An automatic garage opener is the best choice (remember not to keep your opener in your vehicle, or at the very minimum, conceal it). All the best garage door openers fitted today use a light that operates when the opener is activated, lighting the garage



interior. In carports, it's best to either leave a light on permanently, have a light on a timer, or use a motion sensor to activate the light. It is best to use a motion detector on all exterior lights that are not left switched on.

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# Security Tips for Landscaping and Lighting (continued)

The principal benefit of this for home security, especially in the backyard, is that the light warns you or your neighbors that someone is in your yard. If you think that dogs, cats, or even birds will trigger the sensor and cause the lights to come on unnecessarily, you can set the sensitivity of the sensor just right so that this will not be an issue. In the front yard, any type of lighting will be efficient, but make sure that the lighting design covers the entire front and sides of the home. Sensors can be utilized, although they will be prone to "false alarms" induced by things like people walking down the sidewalk, or even children playing.

#### **Indoor Lighting**

Whenever you go out for the evening, I suppose that, like most people, you leave a light on. The Police call these lights "burglar beacons". A burglar beacon is a single light that is left on so you do not return to a dark home when you get back. Regrettably these lights are a sign for the burglar that you are out. When you go out for the evening or away on holiday make certain that several lights are left on, in different parts of the home, and furthermore a radio is left on as well. Put them on timers, from the exterior of your house, it should look as though someone is home at all times to improve your home security.







City of FAIRFIELD California

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